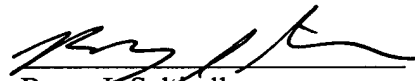


REMARKS

The amendment to the claims is fully supported by the originally filed application and thus, no new matter has been added. For this reason, the amendment should be entered.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED-UP VERSION

1. (Amended) A method for [storing, accessing and] interchanging [voluminous confidential documents for review by a plurality of parties and for notifying selected ones of a plurality of receiving computers generally operated by unrelated business organizations of receipt by a predetermined host server of such electronic documents from] documents between a sender computer [for review, wherein the documents are reviewable by each respective receiving] associated with a sending party, a server, and a receiver computer [over a global communications network, the sender computer and the receiving computers each being registered in the host server] associated with a receiving party, [the method] comprising [the steps of]:

selecting [one or more of the plurality of receiver computers to which selected documents are to be reviewed over the global communications network are addressed] the receiving party as an intended recipient of a document, wherein the receiving party has an identifier associated therewith;

adding a security designation to the identifier;

storing [the respective documents] one of the documents in a [first database that is local relative to the sender computer] sender computer storage means;

[replicating] uploading the [documents] document stored in the [first database in] sender computer storage means into a [second database that is local relative to the predetermined] server storage means as an uploaded document, wherein the uploaded document is uploaded to the server storage means based upon the security designation;

issuing a [respective] notification message from the [predetermined] server to the [selected receiver computers] intended recipient, [each respective] the notification message indicating [replicated documents] that the uploaded document is available in the [second database for their respective retrieval over the global communications network] server storage means; and

[retrieving] downloading the [replicated documents in] uploaded document from the [second database by the selected] server storage means into a receiver [computers over the global communications network] computer storage means upon [a respective user of] the [selected] issuance by the receiver [computers issuing] computer of a [respective] download command signal to the [predetermined] server.

8. (Amended) A [computer communications] system for [notifying a plurality of receiving computers generally operated by unrelated business organizations of receipt by a predetermined host] interchanging documents between a sender computer associated

with a sending party, a server [of respective electronic documents from a sender] , and a receiver computer associated with a receiving party, [the respective documents to be retrieved by each respective receiving computer over a global communications network, the sender computer and the receiving computers being registered in the host server and each being interconnectable to the host server through the global communications network, the computer communication system] comprising:

selecting means for [designating one or more of the plurality of receiver computers to which the respective documents to be retrieved over the global communications network are addressed] selecting the receiving party as an intended recipient of a document, wherein the receiving party has an identifier associated therewith;

adding means for [establishing a secure communication protocol between the sender computer and the host server and for using the secure protocol for transmitting the documents to the host server] adding a security designation to the identifier;

sender computer storage means for storing one of the documents;

server storage means [for storing the respective documents in a database that is local relative to the host server];

first uploading means for uploading the document stored in the sender computer storage means into the server storage means as an uploaded document, wherein the uploaded document is uploaded to the server storage means based upon the security designation;

notification message issuing means for issuing a [respective] notification message from the [host] server to [each designated receiver computer] the intended recipient, [each respective] the notification message indicating [documents] that the uploaded document is available in the [database for their respective retrieval over the global communications network] server storage means;

[means for establishing another secure communications protocol between the host server and each receiver computer;] and

downloading means for [retrieving] downloading the [documents in] document from the [database by each designated] server storage means into a receiver computer [over the global communications network using the another secure protocol] storage means upon [a respective user of each] the issuance by the receiver computer [issuing] of a [respective] download command signal to the [host] server.